



UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Leo T. McCarthy Center for Public Service
and the Common Good

“In The Service of Life”

Materials Needed:

- *In the Service of Life* by Rachel Naomi Remen. The article can be found at:
<http://www.sinc.sunysb.edu/Clubs/buddhist/dailylife/helpserve.html>

Learning Objectives:

1. Students will understand and discuss the difference between “helping, fixing, and serving” as defined by the article *In the Service of Life*.
2. Students will be able to apply the definitions of “helping, fixing, and serving” to service-learning and personal experiences at their organization of service.

Overview:

1. Open up conversation and gather in a circle. Read article aloud together, popcorn style or around the circle.
2. Upon completion, split students up into three groups.
3. Have each group write about one of the following statements and give personal examples of their verb:
 - A. Group 1: Describe tasks you consider to be helping
 - B. Group 2: Describe tasks you consider to be serving
 - C. Group 3: Describe tasks you consider to be fixing
4. Gather back into a circle, and have each group share what they wrote for their verb. Lead into discussion questions.
5. Closing questions and comments.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does Rachel Remen define (helping, serving, or fixing) in the article?
2. Explain how you decided on examples that fit in your category?
3. How do these three tasks connect to the work you do at the organization?
4. Before you read this article, what did you think when you heard the term "Service"?
5. Has your opinion changed since reading the article? Explain.
6. What role do you think service should play in your college education?
7. Does your university have a unique role in service? (Because of USF's religious affiliation does it have a unique role in service?) What role do you think you should play in contributing to your community (specifically, San Francisco)?